

# Evolutionary Outlook On Life

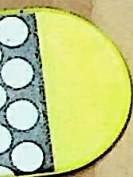


SWAMI RAMANANDA, M. A.















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A sincere keenness to understand the meaning of life, an earnest desire to make the best of it, and a sympathetic awareness of life around indicate that one is ready for the path of conscious self-endeavour in Evolution.

The following is addressed to those who are so.

## FOREWORD

There is a Plan and Plan, is Evolution. The Divine is the Master of Evolution Whom our Master, the reverend Swami Ramananda is pleased to Call the Divine Mother on account of The Divine Mother's gracious and benevolent and all-merciful Nature.

All that takes place, within or without, has the Mother's Sanction and is for our good. We should, therefore, accept all situations of pain, suffering and distress as emanating from the Divine for our evolution, and face them with perfect equanimity and calmness of mind.

Shri Swamijee does not advise the aspirant to renounce the world or active life. For, according to him, that would be tantamount to relinquishment of the '*Sadhana*' itself. The life, with its vast and varied activities, can be made real worship, if all our '*Karmas*' are consecrated to the Lord. The Bhagawad Gita, admirably, lends full support to this theory.

Under well selected headings, Swamijee has placed before the reader almost all the different aspects of life, with an ideal spiritual back-ground. The '*Sadhaka*' is sincerely advised to meditate, off-and-on, on the sublime thoughts aesthetically arranged in the '*Evolutionary Outlook on Life*'. This, we are confident, would enable him to march on steadily and successfully on the Spiritual Path of Evolution.

17, October, 1965.

L. N. Rajpali







## LIFE

Of the greatest moment is our outlook on life. The way we look at it and accept it determines whether we shall be happy or miserable. Upon this also depends how much we shall be able to get out of life.

If you consider life to be a place for enjoyment, you are mistaken. You are heading for troubles. It is not so, and you will be disillusioned.

Pain follows pleasure as night follows day. If a pleasure is prolonged, nerves lose their sensibility, and it ceases to be pleasant. A pleasure remains no longer a pleasure when one gets habituated to it. It means that you cannot perpetuate the moment of pleasure. In the very mouth it turns to ashes and dust. Pleasure is ephemeral. It can't be stored up.

'But, we can have intenser and still intenser pleasure to keep up the sense of pleasantness for long', you may



think. That is not always possible. Where it is possible, it debases. The pursuit of pleasures for their own sake means the sacrifice of higher and finer capabilities of man. To live for pleasure is to live a slave unto desire, to the lowest in man. It cannot be allowed for long. Such a man is shaken out of his sweet dreams by the society or his own organism, revolting against such an existence. It is the unfortunate few who can live such a life. But, do they live ? Their life is a stinking story of stagnation, a dreary chapter of dull pleasantries. Those who have an intimate experience of such life know it.

Is life meant for achievement ? Is it meant to struggle and to achieve, to be greater, wiser, and nobler than one's fellowmen ? This is seemingly a noble, but a wrong ideal. It betrays a misunderstanding of life. It smacks of the heat of youthful blood. It has not the sobriety of experience. It is due to shortness of vision.

Desire is poor mistress to serve. It can never be satiated. At first a willing victim, you will cry when its iron tentacles are upon you and you cannot escape. Why should you think of being greater and shining above your brethren. ? You think that in fact there is none to equal you in this wide world. You are peerless ! That is your ego befooling you ! Beware ! It is in league with that demoness, desire. Do not fall a prey. O blessed

one ! Know that you cannot stand apart the rest of humanity. You need learn more of sympathy. You must have more love for the creatures of your Lord. This, that you think of is the road to tyranny. This is the road which the great conquerors, Sikandar and Timuor took. Beware. It is ambition.\*

To live to be clean and pure, to live to attain to spiritual heights, to attain powers superhuman this may enthuse you. But, be cautious ! It is desire stirring within you in the guise of purity. It is the ego which is seeking fulfilment in spiritual achievements. It is dangerous.

You must understand life, before you can know what to live for. You must know what life is meant for, before you can determine your goal.

Life has a plan and it is Evolution. You are a spark of the Divine on your way to perfect manifestation of Divinity. From the elemental you have been up to the human stage, through vegetable and animal existence by the Master of Evolution. Superhuman status awaits you. The brilliant future of God-conscious-

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\* Achieve, but not to shine above your fellow beings. Struggle, not for yourself, but for all. Struggle for the well-being of others. One who has awakened to his destiny is ready to transcend ambition.



ness, of being one with the Transcendental Divine in His fullness is yours by birthright. The evolutionary forces are taking you on towards that highest fulfilment. Such a great purpose life has got ! Do not trifle with it !

Life is a school of experience which is indispensable for further growth. The Master of Evolution has placed us here, because here we can learn the necessary lessons, qualify, and pass on from the human to super-human levels of consciousness. We must have experience of every sort, of pleasure and pain, of good and evil, of being man and woman, of various races and climes, before we can pass on, wise enough to take the next step.

Life is a school of experience, and the various experiences have value in so far as they help us in our march. Pleasures and pains do not count by themselves. Both come and pass away. They are valuable in the degree they awaken our consciousness, and help us in our onward march. For that, pain may be more valuable than pleasure. It generally purifies him: And, pleasure too has its value.

Struggle is necessary. The more fully we can live, the more experience do we have, and the quicker we



can pass on. Karma‡ is indispensable. We cannot escape activity entirely. We are forced to work, if we have to live. And, through Karma we can further our evolution. To work with the proper attitude is the way to aid the evolutionary process. To do this, we must work for duty. We must work for worship. We must make of our work an offering at the feet of the Master of Evolution. Work is the path of evolution. Accept work that way.

Pleasure will come in life and so will pain. There will be success as also failure. Life with its various aspects is an inescapable reality. You will have to accept it. If you know that it is indispensable for your growth, you will accept it cheerfully. You will not protest. You will welcome it. By doing so, you can have the most out of it. If you weep and protest, you will waste your time and energy in vain grief. You cannot escape. That is dead sure. Why be foolish and waste precious moments of a noble existence in unwise protestation.

The Master of Evolution has much larger a vision than ours. He understands the problems of our evolution much better than we do. He understands them with all their ins and outs. Our circumstances and ex-

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‡ Karma is work,

periences are his dispensation. We have pains because He wills, and He wills them, because they are necessary for our growth. He is a merciful father, a kind and loving mother, not a cruel tyrant. If He were otherwise, how could we ever exist ?

'But, we cannot understand the utility of every suffering !' you may object. That does not mean that it has none. You must grow before you can understand it. Your inner being must be clean, before you can know it. You must be rid of desire, and gain an inner balance, before you can have the eyes to see. Be not impatient. Behave not like a foolish stubborn child. The time will come when you will understand it all, but you must be ready to reach the top of the hill yonder.

Know where you stand. Be ready to work out your evolution step by step, every inch of the blessed ground. Accept bravely the dharma\* of your present. Through desire and ego you will have to pass, and they will bring both joys and sorrows as you pass through them. You must see the road ahead. You cannot rise above them all at once. It is no shame that you are at a lower rung of the ladder today. Everybody must be there some day. Those that have mounted the ladder stood

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\* Dharma is duty in a very wide sense. It is the line of one's evolution.



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one day where you stand to-day. Feel not small, and hate not those below you.

Life is the school of evolution. We have to learn here easy as well as difficult lessons. We cannot escape them, even if we would. Willy nilly, we must march on. Why not accept cheerfully this privilege of being in this great grand school ? Accept cheerfully the great destiny of transcendental fulfilment which invites you. Be happy that you are in the hands of the Great Master, the Master of Evolution. Work because to work is to tread the path of your growth. Work because by working you can accomplish the Master's task. Trifle not with life in seeking evernew thrills. Pervert it not by seeking foolish self-aggrandisement. Kill it not in vain protestation. Life is precious. Beware, O child of Divinity ! Beware, O son of Immortality !





## EVOLUTION

We are all marching on. It is the spontaneous flow of the consciousness of the Master of Evolution which is taking us onward towards the superhuman heights. This flow has brought us to the human level and awakened us to the possibility of conscious self-endeavour for evolution. Unconsciously have we drifted from the elemental stage onwards. That evolutionary force has not left us now. It is taking us ahead inspite of ourselves. By our follies we can only stem the current for a while, but not for ever. By our self-effort, we can move along the current.

We are, as it were, in a stream. It is flowing at its own rate. One who lets himself go in the current is taken along down the current at the speed of the stream. One who swims along the current can move down faster. One who swims against the current; can keep himself stationary for a while. Yes, for a while

only, for the stream of evolution is flowing with infinite force. No man or god can counter it for any appreciable length of time. We must fulfil our destiny one day sooner or later. We are not allowed to escape it.

Different levels of evolutionary process are visible around us. There are elements, plants, animals and human beings, and in every one of these groups individuals are at countless different stages. We are concerned more with the human society. There are those who have entered the human form only recently. They are like children, having very little experience, even though in aged bodies. There are others, apparently children, young in years, but in reality old in evolution. We have our spiritual ages. They count in evolution, not the physical ones.

We have to gather all types of experience. Through honour and dishonour, good and evil, and joys and sufferings we must pass. We have to taste the bitter cup of pollution to know purity. Many a clime and culture we have to live in, before we are qualified to pass on. And, rung by rung, we have to mount this great ladder of evolution. Therefore, look down upon no one. Hatred is ignorance. Who knows we may have to occupy tomorrow, the place we are hating today.



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Those below us are our younger brethren, even these animals and plants. They deserve compassion. Let us help them on in their journey, if we can.

Everybody looks out from where he stands. We stand at different levels, and therefore see differently. No wonder that our vision and our values vary a good deal. We cannot all agree. We are not meant to agree one and all. Therefore, accept differences cheerfully. It is unwise to force your views on others. Let everybody sincerely live out his life. Let him try to fulfil the duty of his station in society. That is the path of his evolution.

There is no scope for disappointment. What if our feet are heavy with mire today. Little by little we have mounted and little by little we shall mount. What we lack today will develop in due course. The Gracious Lord holds us in His loving arms. He is taking us ahead. Why be disappointed? Why feel impatient? Impatience for what? To realize your destiny? That is guaranteed and will come in due course. You cannot storm your way. Let things take their time. Make effort, patiently, steadily and with firm faith in the final fulfilment. No impatience! It kills endeavour. One loses grace by losing patience.



The physical body is not the end of life. It is just a link in the long chain of lives. What we learn in the present life time is carried forward to the future. We have a current account. We thus grow on and on without a break. Death is just a drop-scene, where activity goes on at the back. We have infinite existence before us. Why should we be impatient ?

Should we be impatient for the fear of passing on to subhuman levels of existence after our death ? No. To subhuman levels we cannot pass. We have to go ahead. Cast off this fear. We have not a tyrant above our heads, but the Gracious Master. From life to greater life, we will grow. From light to greater light and from strength to greater strength, we must proceed till we pass into the sublime Light of Divinity. We are the sons of Divinity. The Transcendental is our inherent right. We are irresistably driven to it inspite of ourselves. It is insured. Fear not on that account.

Make self-endeavour for evolution. By all means do what you can But forget not the Lord who is taking you ahead. His effort is infinitely more telling than yours can be. Align yourself with Him. That is the best you can do. Put yourself in His service. Open yourself upto Him. That is the wisest course.

It is arduous and vain to think of carving out a way of your own.

Endeavour, but do not lose a sense of proportion. Do not close down your vision and lose the larger vision of evolution, as it is going on everywhere. Do not forget the Lord toiling in all forms and in all ways to take us all ahead. Forget not that life integral, and you cannot cut yourself away.

Fear nought. Fear neither evil, nor pain. Understand everything. Understand what place it has in evolution. Things come and pass away, playing their part. They have a part to play. That's why they come. They shall not quit till the part is played, and they will not stay after it has been done. Such is the Law of Evolutionary Necessity. Be not impatient, therefore.

Be not idle, either. For by lying on oars you will but prolong your journey. That is unbecoming. You must be up and doing.

Evil you shall not wilfully pursue. One who understands that it has to be transcended cannot afford to do it.



Fear nought ! When suffering comes know that a messenger from the Master of Evolution is knocking at your door. He has a message from the beloved Master. Receive it well. It may be a message of strength and balance. It may be a lesson of sympathy, service and love.

When the storm is raging high, when the clouds and thunders are upon you, remember that the Beloved Master is behind this drama. He wants to awaken the consciousness of His presence in you. He is out to teach you faith and surrender. Precious, very precious ! So, be not terrified. Recognize Him.

When evil strikes and hurts you, when you are all but lost, know that the Master is with you. He is asking you to look up and beyond. He is asking you to purge yourself in order to become inviolable. Purge yourself of evil and fear. That again is an invaluable lesson ! Learn it and such a situation will no longer be repeated. Protest not.

Lament not for you wounds when wounded. It is the Master's knife which has struck. Kiss them. They are to heal you of your deeper wounds of egotism and malice, which are festering deep within you. You



knew them not. The master knew and he would see you healed. It is His grace indeed !

That's a tough journey, ' you may say. An arduous one indeed ! Admitted. There is no help. But, it is so interesting ! It is no longer so tough either, when you can feel His loving breath upon you. You forget all troubles, when you can respond to His gracious touch. Life becomes actually a perpetual victory, a joyous experience, when you know that you are in His lap.

It is no use pondering. The solution of all problems lies in marching on. Tarrying makes the feet all the more heavy. March on.

Accept fully where you stand. Accept that you are at an intermediate stage of evolution. There is weakness as also strength in you. There is lust, anger, greed and malice in you. There may be lot more of dross in you which is invisible today. Accept it all cheerfully and bravely. It is natural that all this should be there at this stage of evolution. You are not a master yet. It has to be worked out, and that will take time. It should be no cause for worry. This is the natural course of evolution. As with others, so it is with you. As a seedling cannot

in a day grow into a sky-scraper, so a man cannot attain to Divinity in a trice. It must take time.

Stand the stinking smell of your filth patiently. It measures the height of your future purity. View your weaknesses courageously, for they are your strengths in the becoming. Your lust is your future Love, and your greed your future munificence. These will all undergo total transformation in the course of evolution.

Keep this knowledge of evolution with you. Apply wherever you go, and in all spheres. It is the key to the right outlook on life. It will make life liveable and fruitful. It will gradually make it joyful. In due course it will make it blissful.

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## SPIRITUALISM

Spiritualism is like a bug-bear to those who do not understand it. As I understand it, it is not a rejection of life. Nor is it a massacre of one's susceptibilities. It is, rather, the total acceptance of life, with all its shortcomings. It is an integral outlook on life. It leaves out no side of it. It aspires to a fullness of life, to a holiness which is wholeness. Those who have formed an erroneous idea of spiritualism alone fight shy of it.

People make water-tight compartments : spiritual and material. It is meaningless. The Divine embraces all. Nothing is outside the ken of the Master of Evolution. The evolutionary process embraces all alike. The man who is leading a fast life is also undergoing the process of evolution, as the one who is given to meditation and prayer. One who is grovelling in filth is on the same ladder as the one who is clean. Only, they are at different rungs. This is all spiritual evolution. All experience



is spiritual. All endeavour is spiritual. It is contributing to the one single process which is going on variously in the universe.

Spiritualism is an endeavour to trace the Divine thread through one and all alike. It is an attempt to recognize Him at work everywhere from the stirrings in a living cell to human beings, from a speck of dust to a mountain, from the humble hearth of a peasant to the palace of a king. It is to catch the glimmer of His light in the materialist and the spiritualist, in the sinner and the saint, in the ant and the elephant alike. It comprises an infinite breadth of vision, a giddy height of comprehension, and embraces all at a glance.

The spiritual man can exclude none. He can hate none. He has to accept all. He has to embrace all. The Divine dwells in all alike. Whom can he reject ?

Spiritualism is such an outlook. It does not incapacitate man for action. It teaches that action is the path of spiritual growth. Duty is sacred according to it. It is the line of one's evolution. It is worship, for the Master of Evolution accepts the offerings of work. Work in proper spirit lifts as nothing else.

Experience is indispensable for evolution. So, there

arises no question of shunning life. Seclusion is a temporary measure, needed to equip oneself to be able to better share in the Divine Sacrifice, the world-play. It is no ideal. It is not to be aspired for. It has no value in itself.

Spiritualism teaches no escape from life. It advocates no cowardice. It does just the reverse. 'Problems are inevitable in life. Sufferings and failures are quite natural. They have to be accepted, but not merely because they are inevitable. They have to be accepted cheerfully. They are the harbingers of rapid growth'.

Spiritualism does not mean an apathy towards the world. It means self-less love, sympathy and service. It means an utter negation of selfishness. The world in which spiritualism dominates will become filled with joy. It will become a happy place to live in, where human beings do not fly at one another's throat. They love, live and let live. They are human, worthy to be called men, sons of God.

Spiritualism raises a vision of the Divine Life before man. It calls him to fulfil his noble destiny. It studies the higher aspects of evolution i. e. superhuman stage, and shows the way to it.

Transcend desire. Transcend greed and passion.



Transcend hatred and malice. Transcend attachment. Transcend all that is lower, all that is for misery and keeps man down. Transcend it all. Do not kill it. It has all to be transcended in due course. Its transcendence is inevitable. You may hasten it by proper effort, and can sooner pass into Divinity. You may aid your younger brethren to pass on quicker to their fulfilment by doing so yourself

Spiritualism advocates no suppression, nor does it advocate indulgence. Understand Change the structure of your whole being so that indulgence can no longer fit in. Transform your entire constitution by outgrowing your present stage so that the energy of sex becomes the light of pure love. Thus there remains no question of suppressions.

Life is the road to Divinity. As you move ahead all these lower tendencies will be left behind. The faster you move the quicker you will leave them behind.

Spiritualism talks not of sin. It accepts the necessity of erring for growth and gives man the freedom to do so. We have to pay for all that we do. That is good. It is educative. It aids the process of evolution. Spiritualism talks not of prohibitions, but awakens man to an understanding of the plan that is evolution. It shows him



what is what in evolution. It gives him a sense of values. It threatens not. It frightens not man with eternal, damnation. Freedom is essential for growth. It respects human freedom to err.

It advocates the higher life, but accepts you where you stand. It is not impatient. It knows of infinite future life wherein growth is possible. It has an ever-fresh message of hope. It knows of no failure, and of no frustration. It knows of marching on and on. It knows only success. There can be no failure. From joy to greater joy it leads.

You will find a stay in spiritualism when all the stays of life are gone. You will find light when all the lights have failed you. You will discover an order where apparently there ranks chaos. In utter despair you will find hope. Spiritualism will come as a mother when out of bewilderment, you are ready to cut your throat. It will show that life has a meaning and a purpose. It will tell you that even the most unworthy in the world is worthy enough to live and love. It can bring hope to the frustrated and life to the almost dead.

Suicides are on the increase. Why ? Man does not know the value of life. The value he foolishly attaches to it is so small that it is no value. Life is a twopence

which can be done away with in a trice. This is the result of our philosophy of life.

To make material ends the highest in life is to invite doom. It is to play in the hands of the lower nature. It is to fall a willing victim to that demonness, desire. She captivates. She kindles a fire which consumes all. Material ends cannot satiate. Desire grows; man envies man. He is jealous. He grows inimical, and fights. He is frustrated, Life becomes meaningless and he quickly does away with it. 'If pleasure is the object of living what use is it living when there is no pleasure?' This is perfect logic. Man should be justified to kill himself. I wonder why man is called to account for attempting to do so. Man, according to this philosophy, should have the right to kill himself : consistency demands it. In the race for the good things of the world, all cannot come out first. But, none is prepared to stand second !

The materialistic outlook on life advocates material ends as the highest : there is nothing higher and nobler than material joys. Where does it lead to ? To the war theatre, to the concentration-camp, and to the self-fitted beloved gallows ! It leads to the pistol-bullet which can so readily despatch It creates war of nerves. It creates heats and panics. It makes man out Gandoot a beast.



That outlook is a delusion. It is a self-contradiction. It is based on ignorance of the real nature of pleasure. it betrays the short-ness of vision. The last century has demonstrated the hollowness of it.

It can give no real morality. All that it can advocate is a police-man morality. 'It is not bad to thieve, but, it is certainly bad to be caught, declared and punished.' Evil is evil, not because of itself, but because it brings punishment. This exposes the bankruptcy of this outlook.

This materialistic outlook on life has also got a place in the evolutionary course of things. When the reasoning mind evolves, the desire principle is stimulated, and it in its turn stimulates the lower nature, and the reasoning mind, along with the ego. Nothing better than such a limited vision is possible. Humanity at large is passing through this stage of evolution at present, and it is no wonder that it is suffering as it does.

The inherent self-contradiction of materialism i. e. the very pursuit of material ends destroys them, prepares the field for the advent of the higher principle, Wisdom.\* The self-inflicted civilized torture of man is driving him on. Mankind is in travail.

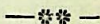
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\* See Evolutionary Spiritualism, Superhuman Evolution.

*Spiritualism*

Spiritualism advocates no escape from activity. It is not action which binds, but desire. Money does not bind : it is greed that does so. Woman does not drag, but, it is lust that does. It advocates a higher and constructive outlook on life. It does not reject pleasures, but it does teach that they are no ends in themselves. Human life has a higher purpose.

Humanity to day is passing through a critical stage. Man's suffering has reached a climax. His lower nature is like an active volcano which is raining liquid fire and stone. Man is calling for help, but in vain. Help is to come from within, not without. The dawn of Wisdom can alone solve the problem of humanity. Spiritualism denotes this dawn, but it can be appreciated only when mankind is ready for the coming step, not till then,





## THE LORD

Do you doubt the existence of God ? Many do it. I myself doubted when I was a boy. I fluctuated between theism and atheism. Many an evening I slept a theist, and woke up next morning an atheist. I ended by becoming an agnostic. 'Let Him take care of Himself, if He is there. We need not bother our heads about Him. The world is going on very well'. That was my conclusion. But, that was in the height of my arrogance:

Existence of God is not a problem of logic. It is a problem of life. It is the problem of your evolution. Its solution depends upon where you stand in the evolutionary ladder. If you are yet down below needing a lot of push and pull, if you yet need the heat of desire, titillation of nerves, and exaltation of the ego, God is meaningless for you. Your evolution wants other things, not God. Have them by all means.

When you have had enough of those experience,

when your awareness is grown, when capacity of serious thought has awakened, and when the desire to understand the meaning of life is born in you, then alone you will be able to believe. Then you will need on arguments. Then will belief have meaning. Then will it open the path of spiritual self-endeavour to you. Then alone can your belief become a living faith. Till then your believing or not is immaterial. It is formal. It touches no vital point in your life.

Why waste our energy in arguing ? Can we prove the existence of God to one who is not yet ready ? We cannot. We cannot show light to the one whose eyes are not yet opened. Let us not be impatient. The time will come. Experience is the greatest argument. Hard knocks of life are the most telling logic. When there is need of belief, it will be born. The law of Evolutionary Necessity works everywhere.

'If it is adversity which drives one to belief, then belief certainly is a self-delusion,' you may argue. 'When shaken one may believe in anything.' It is not so. Adversity prepares one to bow down. It brushes his arrogance and makes him receptive. It creates a depth in his consciousness and he is able to appreciate what he could not heretofore.



Be not mistaken. We are giving no arguments. We are not threatening you into belief. We do not want you to believe. You will believe inspite of yourself, when you are ripe for it. Then alone should you believe. Then alone will your belief be meaningful, not till then.

Who can disprove the existence of God ? He who professes omniscience may dare to do it. To such a one we shall make obeisance ! He'll not be one amongst us, human creatures ! We cannot appreciate him.

But what matters it if the entire world declare with the beat of drums that God does not exist. A thousand sparrows do not make a summer, God is not a bill of the parliament which will go down, if the majority vote against it. Show of hands does not determine the truth. The opinion of those who do not know, be they millions, has no value. The opinion of a single one who knows counts. Those who know say that He is. They declare that He is, and you can realize Him, as they themselves have done. You can know Him in truth. You can realize Him in your inmost and highest being. You can be one with him. You can attain to God-consciousness. You can live God on earth. The blessed ones live their realization. They invite you, if you are ready to pay the price.

And, these are no small fry ! They are men of moment. "Trace the evolution of the concept of God backwards. It has its origin in the dark ages of ignorance Its genesis is the fear of the unknown God is unworthy of a 'self-conscious and civilized' humanity. We should do away with this superstition." This argument is good as far it goes. But, it does not go far enough. All this is wide of the mark What has this to do with the existence or nonexistence of God ? The story of the evolution of wheat does not touch the problem whether wheat bread can satisfy hunger. The argument only shows how the concept of God has evolved.

Man makes God in his own image. It is a mere idealization. There is so much difference in the idea of God amongst men ' It is objected. There is nothing objectionable in it. God is not an ordinary physical being. He cannot be seen and measured as other objects. He transcends all and manifests as all. Beyond time and space, He is manifesting as and through time and space in His infinity. Who would measure Him and with what rod ? Who can have a photograph of Him ? Mind reaches him not. Intellect fails. What wonder if we vary in our ideas of that Transcendental Reality. We are an image of Him. What wonder if we make Him in our own image ! That merely reflects the truth. He is the



repository of all virtues: what wrong is there if He appears as an idealization to man !

He has infinite aspects. Human mind cannot exhaust them all. All multiplicity cannot come up to Him. Existing variety of ideas does not cope with His infinity. Saints realize Him, but none can exhaust Him by realization. You can be one with Him, merge yourself in Him, but cannot measure Him. The infinite always deludes the measuring rod ! It is ever infinite, the immeasurable !

His existence requires no proof. It is self-evident. He is the proof of all existences. All that exists, exists because of him. He is the one existence which is manifesting variously. It is His Light which is shining in all lights. It is His love which is throbbing in all hearts. It is His life which we are all living. He is manifesting as all. He is too big for our small human vision which cannot comprehend the whole. An ant knows only a single leaf. It does not know the whole tree. The frog knows its own pond. It does not know the wide world. We know only an aspect, a tiny aspect of His being. We do not know the mighty Lord, though we live and have our being in Him all the time.

He is manifesting as all as good and evil, as high

*The Lord*

and low, as joy and pain etc. There is nothing else, but He. And, He transcends it all too. He is beyond this manifestation, untouched, and untarnished, the ever perfect immeasurable supreme Lord. This grand cosmos is the miracle of his being !

It is enough to know that He is. He is the very life of our life, the light of our light, and the love of our love. He is the Beloved Lord of us all.

Towards His integral consciousness we are growing. Salutations unto Him, the Lord of Lords !

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## HAPPINESS

The moneyed ones are not all happy, nor are the poor. The middle class people cannot claim happiness either as their exclusive possessions. Men of the same economic status are not equally happy. And, there are families drawing a bare maintenance which are happy and contented. So, what does happiness depend upon ? Does it depend upon what we possess, or get from outside ? Man today believes that it does. The conviction has unconsciously gone deep down into his being, or else he should not be mad after the good things of the world as he is to-day.

This is the greatest delusion of the age : happiness varies directly as the material gains. If one hundred rupees would buy one unit of happiness, two hundred would buy just the double. Power is believed to vary as possessions. Therefore, happiness varies as power, varies as possessions. This has maddened man. The all out war

for possessions has made him inhuman. He destroys the very happiness for which he fights. It is mockery of human intelligence.

Happiness does not depend upon gains, nor does it depend upon their absence. It does not depend upon the respect that we have from others, nor upon its opposite. Look around with an open eye and you will discover the truth of this fact. Happiness depends neither upon smooth sailing in life, nor on the reverse.

In a way it does depend upon all these, because it depends upon how we react to our circumstances. It depends upon how we accept the situations of life and what we are ready to give to others. Proper acceptance means correct adjustment and that is the secret of happiness. Then we are able to give to others the best that we can. This enhances our happiness and accelerates our growth.

A man may sit and weep over the loss of his money. Another may refuse to worry over it. 'What is gone is gone. Look ahead.' He may think. He may soon make more than he has lost and gain a position which he had never thought of. The other man who worries may lose heart and become an invalid for life ! Not only the loss



of money, I have seen people, accepting failures and still more serious things cheerfully. Even the death of dear and near ones can be accepted properly. Misery does not lie in the outward event. If it did all should be equally miserable in the face of similar circumstances. But, they are not. Misery or happiness lies in our attitude, the way we accept things.

This is the great lesson that you have to learn. Cease to blame the world. Cease to blame your destiny for your unhappiness. You can be happy where you stand. Only look out properly. If you refuse to learn none can make you happy. Even the best of circumstances cannot make you happy. Your misery is self-created. Change your attitude towards life.

Can you believe in evolution ? Do you believe in the existence of the Lord ? Do you believe in the Master of Evolution, the Divine Mother ? If you really do, and understand what it means, how can you be unhappy ? You cannot but accept every circumstance as Divine dispensation and for your good. You have got to make the best of everything. Life will become to you a series of joys, a perpetual flow of Her grace, if you can do so.

'It is sheer idealism' you will say. It is idealism, no doubt, for it demands of you to lift your eyes up. But,

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it is practical idealism. It is an idealism based on the truth of things. It is perfectly practicable. Try it, but patiently.

'There are physical pains,' you would say. Yes. 'They are torturing,' no doubt. But they have their meaning, message and utility. They are not in vain. You cannot escape them. Why not accept them as best as you can.

The better the acceptance of circumstances the more can you give to others. It is your Karma of the past, that is fruitening in the form of circumstances of your present. You are reaping what you sowed in the past. It has no direct importance from the point of view of evolution. It is like a spent up bullet. Of real importance is what you can give to others. That is what fashions you. That is effective in your evolution. If you cannot give love and are giving hatred, you are injuring yourself. You are darkening your future. You are not aiding in your evolution. Cynicism is suicidal.

If you are not able to serve others cheerfully, if you resist opportunities of service, it is bad. You are throwing away chances to grow.

Love, service and sacrifice are precious opportunities



for aspirants. Only unfortunate ones reject them, The more you can give, the happier will you be in life.

But, happiness you must know is not the goal of life. Proper adjustment is necessary. It automatically results from right understanding of life. It is essential for further growth. Right adjustment is simply the art of right living. Life is given us for the unfoldment of the higher principles of Wisdom and Love, for the perfect unfoldment of Divinity. Happiness is by far transcended in Bliss.

Joy is the thrill of the moment. Happiness is the general state of rhythmic balance in our inner consciousness. Desire underlies momentary thrills. Desire, effort and fulfilment are the three spokes of the wheel of joy. One fulfilment gives birth to another desire and the wheel revolves on. It moves on rotating around its axle, the ego. Man is never satiated. It is childish to be seeking momentary thrills. Life has a better use.

Proper adjustment is too greatest problem of life. It depends upon our understanding of life, our acceptance and our reaction to it. That determines our happiness or misery. We by ourselves happy or miserable, but foolishly blame the world. Shoulder this responsibility. If you shoulder it, then alone can you

remould yourself and make yourself happy. If you do not, who can help you ? This sence of responsibility is the prior condition for any self effort to aid yourself. You must know the art of living, before you can accelerate your evolution.

Right understanding and right living are the first two basic lessons of spiritual practice. Do not minimise their importanse. Know the truth and live in accordance with it. Truth alone can deliver the goods.

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## SUFFERING

'Suffering mars the joy of human life. What use on earth could it have in the evolutionary process ? It is useless.' One is inclined to think.

Suffering is not in vain. It makes the joys of life sweeter than they would be otherwise. We know the value of a shower of rain after sweltering heat. Those who live in the plains can appreciate the hills, not so the hill-men. Growth of sensibility is not possible without contrast, and suffering provides a contrast to joy and happiness.

Suffering is an indicator. It indicates that there is maladjustment somewhere. The seat of maladjustment is the seat of suffering. Disease indicates a maladjustment in the physical. It is the call of the prana for proper adjustment. It is a revolt of the system against the disturbing factors. It wants to throw out foreign matter.

Those who understand disease in this light, welcome it as the messenger of health. They follow its indications and give help in bringing about proper adjustment. Disease goes away as soon as proper adjustment takes place.\*

There is physical suffering due to other reasons as well. Some are born sick. Some become invalids for life. What utility has disease in those cases ?

Suffering, in whatever way it comes, deepens our consciousness. Man comes to have a wider and more sober view of the world than he has otherwise. He learns to bow. I have seen haughty heads bowing down when they have lain helpless in sick-beds. It is such a corrective ! Prolonged sickness does not only over-haul to body, it over-hauls is the mind as well. in the sick-bed we learn the value of kindness. In the heat of strength we run roughshod over others, not knowing the wounds we inflict and the pains we cause. We know them when we lie in bed, a picture of utter helplessness. Then, we can appreciate the meaning of love and service. Then we know gentleness. Suffering teaches what no

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N B. \*There will be pain in the stomach as long as there is some unwanted stuff there. It will go as soon as it is thrown out.



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sermons or books can. It teaches what even prolonged meditations and worship cannot. It has a unique place in evolution !

It gives balance and strength. When suffering comes, man tries his level best to escape it, but he cannot do so always. Sometimes, he dodges it but it comes again with a vengeance and man is caught in its meshes. He has to suffer. Suffering he knows that he can. The Lord who dispenses suffering supports him through it. This gives him strength. With this bitter experience to his credit, joys of life now cannot throw him off his feet as before. His inner-being remembers the other bitter experience. It balances him in pleasure as well as pain. At last he realizes that both types of experiences are ephemeral. Neither can be relied upon to stay. Hence, it is no use being mad for either.

Emotional suffering is still intenser. The loss of a dear one cuts as no sword can. Our attachments and hopes lie at the root of emotional suffering. Suffering comes in the emotional sphere as an eye-opener towards truth. We suffer because we know not the truth of things. We would appropriate what in reality belongs to the Lord. We would have for ever things which are transitory. It is a travesty of truth. Suffering knocks us

out of our false hopes and attachments. It comes to liberate us from them. But for a separation who would know the strength of the chords which bind him down to objects and persons ? But for failure and frustration, who could know the binding power of desire ? Suffering is a friend in the emotional sphere. Receive it as a friend and carefully listen to the message it has for you. It has the message of truth and the call to liberation. 'O Ye, child of the Supreme ! Awaken to thy heritage. Shake off these attachments and hopes. They are keeping you bound to this earth and are the causes of suffering.'

Suffering in the mental shakes the very foundations of personality. To be thrown upon earth from the skies without a parachute : what an experience it would be ! From a position of honour when one comes to ignomy, it is similar. When one's intellectual stays are shaken, one loses balance. We have attachments and desires in the mental world. Ego is the most dominant factor there. It gets hurt seriously. The longer it is the instenser the pain. One feels as if lacerated in the vitals. Suffering indicates that the ego has to be outgrown as also attachments and desires. It is a helper in our evolution. It is a friend worthy of respect, not any



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enemy. It is the Wisdom consciousness calling from beyond. Recognize it.

Suffering always indicates that there is something wrong. There is a maladjustment. There is ignorance. It is a call for readjustment. Ignorant persons blame others for their sufferings. Those who understand accept the challenge of suffering and endeavour for proper adjustment. They aspire to grow beyond suffering for ever.

Suffering exists in evolution as long as it is needed. It exists no more when attachment, desire and the ego have been transcended. Having outlived its utility, in accordance with the Law of Necessity, it quits.

Suffering comes as His grace indeed ! It comes to egg you on in evolution. Be not foolish to blame others. Aspire to grow beyond the necessity of it. The good student outgrows the utility of the rod.

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## GOOD

The higher nature of man is represented by goodness. It is constituted by truth, love, sympathy, service etc. The roots of good lie in the higher emotions. Good comes to have meaning only when man grows self-conscious. Good as also evil have their beginning in the instinctive animal activity. The mother loves its offspring and makes sacrifice for its sake. The animals have a herd-sense and fight for the safety of the herd. The spirit of love and sacrifice is there in the animal. Desire stimulates the higher nature of man, as also his lower nature

Human society is based upon the good in man. It somehow over-balances the evil or else social structure will fall to pieces.

Good and evil co-exist in man in the earlier stages of his evolution. The very man who is so loving, kind and sacrificing for his wife and children may be a tyrant



for his subordinates. One may be a good friend, but a bad enemy. With the advancement of evolution both evil and good are stimulated. Man becomes at once more evil and more good, more unhappy as also more happy. Gradually, evil grows weaker. Good gains strength. A time comes when he is ready for the advent of Wisdom.\* That eliminates evil. He grows beyond ego-consciousness, beyond doership, and hence beyond both evil and good.

Till good dominates in life, wisdom consciousness cannot appear. Wisdom extricates human conscience from both good and evil. In wisdom man is balanced.

Good has its part to play. It causes an expansion in consciousness. It brings ease and happiness. It develops a sense of oneness with others. It produces a clarity in head and heart. It dresses up where suffering wounds. It offsets evil and thus accelerates the speed of evolution.

Good brings happiness. But, should you covet it because it brings happiness? Those who do not know may do, but not you. The goal of the evolutionary process is not happiness. Why should you covet it?

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\* See 'Wisdom.'

You cannot make the joy of goodness stay. It will bind you as does evil. They are chains both. Evil is an iron chain, good a golden one. But chains are they both. You must rise above them.

Be not attached to goodness. It will bind you down. Cultivate it because it helps the evolutionary process, not the Master of Evolution wants it to be cultivated, that you may shine above your fellow beings. Cultivate it for the good of all.

Let not good become a hindrance in your growth. If you get attached\* to it, it will. good is not the goal of evolution. Understand it well. It has merely to prepare the way for Wisdom. It must yield its place readily to it, recognizing in Wisdom its superior.

Lifelessness is not goodness. Incapacity does not denote goodness. It denotes enertia. Enertia means little growth. The good man who is capable of no evil, but is also incapable of good is not yet ready for the higher step in evolution. He stands lower than the positively bad man.

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\* I have seen people grieving because they were no longer able to practise charity as before. That is an instance of attachment.



Goodness in so many is a result of fear. They fear the society. They fear the future. They fear God. Such goodness is no good from the evolutionary standpoint. Goodness based upon fear is much worse than evil. Evil is lying suppressed underneath it. The suppression in such cases kills life. It stagnates. Such cases cannot make any appreciable headway in evolution. The suppressions must go. The animal must come forth in some form and be exhausted. Head of life must be developed before the person can go ahead normally.†

Desire is at the root of evil, it is said. Few recognize the importance of desire in evolution. Religious and spiritual literature contain tirades against desire. They would threaten people into virtue and renunciation. They have a very bad effect upon immature souls who are not yet ready for transcendence of desire. They grow old in the prime of their youth. Suppressions result and life begins to stagnate. It is so unfor-

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† We live in a society and are bound by its limitation. We may have to sacrifice to a degree the growth of an individual for the sake of many. The individual should not grudge it. It should be an act of willing sacrifice on his part.

fortunate, It is like plucking a half grown apple. It will not ripen. It will simply rot. Be not impatient to transcend desire, neither in your own case nor in the case of others. Goodness will come in time.

Evil occasions pain ; good occasions pleasure. It is a self-evident truth. It is true the individual as also the society. Evil produces a disbalance in the doer and the society. Good brings about a balance and causes an expansion by proper selfgiving. It stabilises the society. But, modern mind fails to understand it. It thinks that it can gain by practising evil. It is a delusion. A thief creates thieves by his act of stealing and his stolen property would be stolen away someday. Upon untruth and selfishness one cannot build lasting and happy relations with others. What you do unto others will rebound upon you in some form and at some time. You cannot escape your karma.

Man suffers but does not know that he is suffering for his own wrong deeds. He tries to set others right instead of ordering his own house. Thereby, he creates further complexities. He wants to right his wrongs by doing more wrongs. He cannot befool the evolutionary forces. He gets his reward. He is ground



in the very mill he sets to grind his fellowbeings. Reaction of his karma takes him and he groans under it. At last, one day his eyes are opened. He sees his folly. He awakens to his blunders, repents, and mends his ways. It happens when his higher nature awakens. It is no fault of his that man cannot understand this self-evident truth to-day. It is the fault of his age. He needs more experience to open his eyes. The Master of evolution will not be failing. He will, out of his loving grace, provide it and the man will grow.

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## EVIL

'Adam and Eve tasted the forbidden fruit in the garden of Eden.' So the story goes, explaining the genesis of evil. Adam and Eve are the primal man and woman. Desire is the forbidden fruit. Its tasting is coeval with the birth of self-consciousness. It signifies the birth of good and evil. Man has a sense of right and wrong. He can discriminate and choose. The animal cannot. Man is held responsible for what he does. He is crowned with a free will. The crown is a crown indeed, though of thorns.\* He is above the animals. He is not driven helplessly on by the evolutionary force. He has the privilege to share in the making of his own destiny. The birth of desire is his coronation to manhood. It is a great event in the history of a man's evolution. It is his initiation into the path of self-conscious endeavour in evolution.

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Desire stimulates the lower emotions, anger, fear,

\*Because evil leads to suffering.



sex etc. It stimulates greed and love of power. It also stimulates the ego. Man shakes off the inertia of his animal existence. He comes to life, as it were. Imagination quickens. A new world of ambitions opens up. Desire gathers momentum. Lower emotions also gather momentum. Like the two fly wheels coupled together, they accelerate the speed of each other. Man's entire being passes gradually into the grip of his lower nature. Evil rules him. Man with his intelligence outdoes beasts. In his love of power and possessions, he enslaves his fellowbeings. He walks a dreaded tyrant, an acclaimed aggressor in the society, a curse to humanity.

But, all that is lower is self-destroying. It contains a self-contradiction, or else it could not be outgrown. How could it be got rid of otherwise? What urge will be there to outgrow evil? Evil brings suffering. It brings a reaction from without. Man's own evil deeds hit him back. He awakens to a consciousness of himself, a deeper and finer consciousness. Suffering drives him to thought and sympathy. He knows that evil is wrong. He understands that evil to be transcended. This makes him ready for the onward journey.

Evil, by contrast, helps the growth of good. Good

presumes because the existence of evil. Evil is known and transcended because of good. They are the necessary counterparts of our mental consciousness.

Evil is necessary in human evolution. This is clear from the above. But does it mean that one should pursue it, because it is necessary? No, not at all. One who has grown in discrimination is already above the necessity of evil. One who is ready for conscious self-endeavour in evolution is for beyond it. He has already had this experience. He can indulge now only to his cost, and that is immense.

Evil is evil, but necessary. It takes leave when it has played the part assigned to it. It has to stimulate man to action. It has to bring suffering and thus awaken him. It has to give birth to an inner strife between his higher and lower nature, and thus set the ball of unrest rolling within him. It has to usher in a chaos around him, make him cry unto the Lord for relief. Later, this is what becomes spiritual aspiration, the precious leader in conscious self-endeavour of the aspirant.

Evil has a place in evolution. It will accompany you like a faithful friend till it can do naught for you. In transcending it, you will have grown to great heights



of purity and wisdom. Is it not a friend ? Why hate it? Why fear it ? It has a challenge for you. Accept it. You cannot kill evil. In killing it, you will kill desire and kill yourself. You have to outgrow it. You have to pass on to those brilliant regions where desire cannot breath, where evil cannot exist. There is no other way. What a boon is evil unto man for his spiritual growth ! Can't you see the Divine Mother's grace in it ?

You cannot get rid of evil all at once. There is a stage when man does not know the evil that is in him. Later, he grows conscious of it and wants to be free from it, but cannot do so. There is a constant tug of war between his higher and lower nature. Now, the lower has the upper hand, and now the higher. The roots of evil lie deep in man. It takes much time before one can be rid of it. Time and again will the evil tendencies return before they quit finally. Sudden disappearance means a suppression. The evil tendencies have to be exhausted in the physical or the superphysical, before one can be absolutely clean. Therefore, you shall have to put up with evil for long in your evolutionary journey.

Be not disappointed to see evil lurking in you. Be not impatient to root it out at once. That will merely

bring on frustration. Have faith that evil will go. It cannot stay. That is its definite predetermined future. Look ahead. Try to grow as fast as you can. The faster your growth, the quicker will you pass beyond the sphere of evil. Then will evil have left you for ever. You need not go out of your way to strike at evil. Go ahead. Let it die its own death.

That is the right attitude towards evil. When you see it in others, do not hate it. Remember that you also suffer from the same disease. It is a necessity of evolution. Besides, who knows how much more of evil lies hidden in you, which you do not see to-day? Who knows that the one who is down below on a lower rung today may mount much faster than you and leave you behind in a short time. Therefore, be not proud. Pride is ignorance. It denotes lack of sympathy and breadth of vision.

Help others when you can to rise above evil. Awaken discrimination. Give encouragement. Create hope and self-confidence. Give love and strength. Be cautious, do not judge. Let no self-hate be nurtured. That is suicidal.

Let understanding be the law. Understand the place of evil in the evolutionary process. Have faith in its



presencce. Fear is not. Hate is not. Outgrow it steadily with confidence and patience. Your victory is insured. The evolutionary forces are with you.

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## LIBERATION

We are immortal. The bodies are renewed periodically, not the light which shines through them. They wear out and are cast off one by one. Then, we have a new set. That we call reincarnation. Freedom from the necessity of having reincarnation is called liberation.

Why do we reincarnate? Because, our evolution demands it. We have yet to learn lessons in the physical sphere; that is why we are born here again and again. Why does the child go to the same class day after day? Because, he has not completed the course of that class. He outgrows the utility of that class, when he has qualified. Exactly parallel is our case. We shall no longer be under the necessity of reincarnation when we have qualified.

We have to transcend mental consciousness in this school of the earth. To learn to remain balanced in pleasure and pain, to overcome the attractions of the senses, and to outgrow attachment, desire and ego—these



are the great lessons we must learn to pass beyond the mental. These can possibly be learnt here on this earth, not in the subtle spheres.

Balance can be learnt where there are hard knocks. Where there are no shake-ups, the sense of balance cannot develop. The earth being the most solid of the planes of existence can provide the hardest possible knocks. Here do we receive the strongest physical and mental stimuli. Our consciousness is so pitched down that we can feel them the most. Cold and heat have meaning only in the physical. Separation is meaningless in the subtle. There we can at once unite with those whom we want. Distance does not count there. Frustration and failure are also almost absent in the subtler worlds. The fulfilment in the subtle comes without much effort. It is only down below in the physical that the mill of experience grinds hard and grinds so finally. It is here, therefore, that great strides in evolution are possible. The other worlds are merely its necessary counterparts. It is a privilege to be born in this earth.

Birth entails great suffering, no doubt. But why fear that? That is the necessary price for the rapid evolution that is possible here on earth. Looking to the

suffering, human existence is regarded as a curse. Physical birth is considered as bondage. Liberation from this is looked upon as the highest goal of human existence. But, that is a negative and a very narrow ideal. In fact, it is not worthy of being an ideal for man.

It is like looking upon one's school as a goal, and making freedom from it the goal of one's activities. We are not in a gaol here. The Master of Evolution is not a gaoler, keeping guard over us. We are here for evolution. He has given us the privileged admission in this highest institution, because he wants us to evolve rapidly. Life here has not come as a punishment. It is wrong to look upon it like that. Such a negative outlook has serious repercussions. We cannot accept life as the Master ordains it for us. We have a complex that everything comes as a punishment and must be painful. Life becomes to us an unending chain of suffering. Instead of learning the necessary lessons we are wailing and weeping over our lot like a foolish prisoner, or like a silly child who fights shy of his lessons, and would quit the school.

The best way to be free from the school discipline is to do your lessons well. From class to class you will be promoted, till one day you would have qualified for



the school leaving certificate. You will pass out without any necessity of returning to the school anymore. Similarly, why not put our whole being into the lessons which we are to learn here? That will make us qualify sooner and we shall pass beyond the necessity of coming to this earth again and again. The Master of Evolution will not allow us to leave the lessons till we have learnt our lessons. He knows no such leniency.

To make much of liberation from bondage of the physical is due to wrong outlook on life. Talk of accelerating the pace of your evolution. Talk of outgrowing the mental consciousness. Or, talk of the awakening and establishment of the Wisdom consciousness. That will make you look ahead. It will encourage you to take the next step. But talk of liberation seriously and life will become a burden. Then you can only think of running away from it.

We are immortals. We are parts of the Supreme. We share the life of the Divine Master of Evolution. We are not bound down to the physical for its sake. We have to evolve the perfection hidden in us and that necessitates experience. For that we put our physical bodies and live in them on this earth, gaining experience and thus unfold ourselves gradually. Out of necessity,

we change our personality from time to time. The necessity is of our own growth. It is not forced on us from without. Why should we not cheerfully live it out ?

We have not to seek liberation. It is something inevitable. A school boy who has qualified is no longer admitted in the school. So are we not admitted on the earth when we have qualified. We can come here, then, only as teachers or the like, not as pupils. So why worry about it ?

But we can look higher still. The goal of human evolution is Love. It is the attainment of a full and total union with the Divine. It is to be His for ever and ever. It is to lay down one's entire being at His feet in the fullness of Love Divine. That is the way to be ever one with Him. Then, why talk of liberation ? If he sends us down on this earth, we shall accept that lot cheerfully a million times. Life is bliss even in the physical when His consciousness possesses us. In Him, it is always a perpetual liberation, nay an unutterable bliss.

Why seek a departure from this earth at all ? Because it is painful ? In no longer remains so, when one is at one with Him. Liberation as an ideal is meaningless.

Man of Divine Love knows only to bow down : 'Let Thy will be done.' And, in him is fulfilled the Divine Will. Liberation remains far below the ken of his vision.



## OLD AGE AND DEATH

Man fears old age. He fears death still more. The former incapacitates and makes him a helpless burden on others. The latter tears him off from his beloved ones. He is forced to quit the gains of a life-time. The very thought of passing into an unknown land shakes him. The experience is said to be very painful. That terrifies him. Like the sword of Democlese, death hangs over his head.

Can you imagine of world without death ? It would be overpopulated in every sphere and would become unfit for any one to live in. Existence in such a world would not be worthwhile. Life will defeat its own purpose. Death is necessary for the type of the world which we inhabit.\*

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\* You may think that the Lord should have created a world in which death was not a necessity. But, that is childish. It is the result of thinking yourself to be too big, bigger even than the Great Lord of the universe.

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Could the individual grow without death ? He could not. The evolutionary process is a long one. It requires experience of all sorts, of poverty and riches, of purity and pollution, of ignorance and education, and of every country and clime. It requires experience of both sexes as well. Could it all be possible in a single body ? Not at all. The very necessity forces us to die and be born again under different circumstances to have a different set of experiences. From country we shift, from race to race, and from religion to religion. Thus we gather the necessary experiences. It is such an interesting sojourn all the world over.

Assimilation of experience is also not possible without death. In the post-mortem states our consciousness widens. The deeds of our past life-time have a reaction and we learn new lessons. It is just like a cow devouring grass rapidly without chewing, but masticating it later. We masticate our experiences in the higher wider light which shines after death. A period of rest intervenes. For the new incarnation we are equipped with a new mental, emotional and pranic body to occupy the new physical frame. The new personality represents our growth upto-date. The old body got out-dated and had to be cast off. The changes in the bodies of a man growing at a normal place in the course of a life-time



are so great that he grows out of recognition in the next incarnation.

Living in the same body he cannot grow beyond his attachments. Utter separation is necessary to make him conscious of his bonds. Only death can provide it. So, death comes in as a necessity of evolution.

Death is not necessary only for the individual who passes away, it is also necessary for the evolution of those who are left behind. It shifts responsibility to new shoulders. They bear it and grow. It opens the gates of experience for those who are left behind. It comes as a challenge for inner and outer readjustments to them. It has to be taken up. But for death, man would not have grown as he has. A father dies anxious for his son, 'How will he be able to pull on without me !' But, the son bears the new burden so well. He proves himself more capable than his father. He earns in a year what his father could not in a whole life-time. Yet, he was quite an irresponsible chap when his father died. This is not an isolated example. Our potentialities come out only when wanted, and death calls them forth as nothing else.

Those who do understand the Plan of Evolution do not cry over death. It is a passage to life beyond, and

back again to a fuller existence. What is there to weep for ? It is a precondition for the renewal of personality, the instrument of experience for one's evolution.

Bereavement gives an awareness of attachment. Measure it and aspire to rise above it. 'Ah ! My new responsibilities, my burdens !' you may cry. Fear them not. Accept them. They can open the door to rapid growth for you. 'These children, their poor fate !' Struggle can make them into better men. Adversity can awaken them to the consciousness of a higher manhood. That is what counts in evolution. It is not ease and comfort, it is endeavour which counts. They shall have to make endeavour, and they will grow. They will not be cowards afraid of life, but will become brave men ready to face life and get the most out of it.

Be not of small vision and of a pigeon-heart. Be brave. Death comes to awaken you into the glory of your inherent strength and capabilities. Accept it cheerfully.

And, you are afraid of the physical torture ? Death is not so painful. The distortions and contractions that you see in the body at the time of death are the efforts of the pranic double to extricate itself from the physical



body. The individual is mostly not conscious of the physical when all this goes on. He is already on the threshold. Be not afraid. Death is just slipping smoothly out of the physical frame.

And, what, even if it were painful? Don't we suffer pain otherwise? If death is necessary for our growth, we should welcome it, be it painful or not.\*

Death is a sincere friend of evolving soul. It is an evidence of the grace of the Master of Evolution.

Old age needs not much explanation. It is the harbinger of death. The utility of death explains its necessity. The necessity of suffering for evolution demonstrates the utility of old age. We need no longer fear it, when we understand its place in the scheme of things.

It comes upon the physical body, showing that the life in it is fast fading and the organism will not be of any

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\* It is said that living in the mother's womb in the pre-natal state is very painful. Very graphic pictures of the tortures of that existence are painted in the Hindu scriptures. Reason fails to testify to the veracity of them. Our consciousness remains very much above the physical during that state. It takes years before we come down fully to the physical level.

use soon. The senses fail, indicating that the pranic double is almost spent up. The emotional control gives way, denoting that control system i. e. the etheric web is worn out, and the nerves can no longer stand the tension of emotion. The mind fails because the brain is rusted. Its tissues have lost their elasticity. The mental body has also lost its vigour. All the bodies are calling for a renewal. They are old, one and all.

The bodies jointly form the instrument of expression and experience for the soul. The light behind these all is unfading. It ever grows profitting from experience gathered through these vehicles. It never ages. Old age comes over the personality which is a temporary mode of its expression. You are that light. Why do you fear old age? It is the precursor of a final renewal. Welcome it.

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## OUR LOWER NATURE

There is much in man which makes a devil of him. Under the influence of lust, greed, anger etc., he behaves in a way unworthy of a human being. These represent his lower nature. It has to be transcended in the course of evolution.

Lower nature presents a serious problem to one who is aspiring to move ahead quickly. On this account spiritual literature sermons against lust, greed etc. They are recognized to be his enemies and an all out war is declared against them.

We must understand our lower nature. We must understand the part it plays in evolution. We must overcome our fear or hatred for it, before we can outgrow it.

Lust is perverted sex. It is desire for pleasure which perverts it. Man lusts and oversteps the natural bounds.

Animal does not. Man wants to enjoy sex. That is how he grows lusty.

What is the evolutionary necessity for it ? Desire intensifies sex. It awakens man intensely. Sex is the creative power of man. It grows and along with it grow his capabilities. The impotent have no great achievements to their credit. Sex activates and enriches. It teaches intense living. It fortifies human ego and man can stand by himself i.e. as an individual.

It brings human consciousness down to the lowest in earth and man can profit most from a physical existence. It starts a serious chain of actions and reactions and builds around him a small world, the family, which gives the widest scope for the growth of his emotional nature. It teaches him the lessons of love and self-sacrifice. It weaves the intricate web of attachment. The so called world comes into being for man on account of sex.

All this is necessary, if man has to outgrow the animal. It is indispensable for the development of his emotional and mental nature. It is necessary for the ultimate transcendence into the consciousness of Wisdom and Love. It is the basic energy of sex which turns upwards and becomes the energy of spiritual aspiration.



This turns later into the consciousness of Divine Love.

Should you hate sex ? Should you call it devilish ? No, you cannot. It has its part to play. Having played it, it will quietly retire. To try to fight it out is meaningless. To fear it is unwise. That will cause suppressions. To hate it is ignorance. That means you do not understand its place in evolution. Aspire for Wisdom consciousness. Aspire for Love Divine. Develop love. Learn to give out of the fullness of your heart. Make of life a self-giving at the Lord's feet. Order your life well. By doing so, you will gradually outgrow sex. It will pass into oblivion like a ship going out on sea. But not impatient. Let it take its own time.

Do not hate woman. She is a mother. She is an emblem of the Mother Divine. Hate her not. It is not woman who entices. It is the lust in you which does. Outgrow lust rather than hate woman. To hate her is sinful. It is to invite your doom.

Woman is the symbol of purity. She can purify you of lust by her self-sacrifice. Only accept her in the Divine way, not in the beastly one.

And anger ?

It represents the animal vigour of man at its worst.

When his ego is hurt, man pounces upon his fellow-man like an animal. Then his reason lies in abeyance. He behaves like a ferocious beast and lets out his rage.

It teaches more by reaction. One who angers suffers and the object of his anger suffers. Repentance comes when the tempest has blown off. It is a challenge for self-control. The inner being must rise to a great height in order to attain control over his lower astral body. The consequences of anger drive him to the necessity of it. This means that he is egged on to pass gradually beyond the emotional and mental to Wisdom consciousness wherein balance is natural.

Anger intensifies and strengthens the ego. In strengthens in the sense that it deepens the ego-sense and man develops a distinct individuality. He stands out from his fellowmen.

But, does it not come in the way of the aspirant ? You would question. No doubt, it does. But to become angry with your anger will not do. I wonder if you can suppress it. And, it would be harmful, if you could. Understand anger well. Understand its genesis. Understand how its roots lie in the ego sense. You must outgrow it by a higher and a better understanding of persons and situations. The more you understand, the



better you can handle them, and the less angry you will become.

Outgrow it by a wider sympathy and greater love for others. You will then solve problems by means of love, rather than by kicking in frustration.

To be angry is to admit that the situation is too much for you. It is an admission of defeat.

Anger is a great challenge. It is a challenge for a better understanding, a wider sympathy and a longer love. It is a challenge for the Divine in you to come and possess you. Accept challenge and outgrow anger. That you can, but gradually.

There is yet much more in the lower nature of man. There is greed, malice, hatred, jealousy etc. They have all their utility. Do not fear them. Outgrow them, by moving forward.

Hate not man for what is low in him. The angel lies side by side with the devil in him. The Divine light shines beyond them both. As the Light expands the devil will be outlived, the angel will grow and merge in that light. The devil, as well as the angel are Divine's dispensation.

## AMBITION

On her strong pinions ambition scales the skies. It moves in various spheres. Riches, honours, possessions, powers, progeny, literature, knowledge, discovery, invention, it soars through. In the guise of purity and godliness, of miraculous powers and saintliness it would shoot into the seventh heaven without pausing on the way for breath. Ambition fascinates man. It thrills him into self-forgetful activity.

Should one be ambitious ? Should one renounce ambitions when one comes to the path ?

Understand. Ambition is but desire magnified by the ego. Desire is outgrown when the mental plane is transcended, as also the ego. They cannot breathe in the atmosphere of Wisdom-consciousness. One is fulfilled when that consciousness awakens. Then, what needs he desire ? He lives in the self. The aggrandisement of the ego has no meaning for him.



But you have not to kill ambition. You have not to renounce it all at once. You must understand the pain of evolution. Understand the value of the different pursuits of life. You will know where your ambitions stand in the scale. They will drop out as your consciousness clears up. Only, follow the path.

It is no sin to be ambitious. It is quite natural that one is so in the earlier stages of his evolution. It develops heat. It brings joys and disappointments of an intense type. They are necessary experiences. Every one must have them. Do not taboo ambition. Spur on the child souls who need it for their growth. Talk not of renunciation to them. That will make them dull. Inertia will overpower them. They will cease to grow. Renunciation will become an opiate. Beware, therefore, lest you should harm a budding soul.

### Renunciation ?

Renunciation of what ? Of actions ? It is impossible. Who can renounce activity totally ? One cannot do so even in death. Of your responsibilities in the society ? It is selfish. It is unwise. We grow by discharging our duties. We think of renouncing them, because they are irksome. Then, it is no renunciation. It

is an escape. It will rust you. You will cease to grow. Growth demands activity.

Will you renounce wordly relations ? Why ? Because, they cause attachment and pain ? Because they bring down responsibilities on one's shoulders ? That is inhuman. That dries up the fountain of love. Man, rather than outgrowing the human stage of evolution, becomes a log of dry wood. That is dangerous.

Does karma (activity) bind ? No. It is our attachment which binds. Then why renounce karma ? Renounce attachment. Renounce desire.

Is it love which binds ? No. Love lifts man towards supermanhood. It is attachment which binds. Self-sacrifice which is the essence of love releases man, rather than binding him down.

Do possessions bind ? No. It is our sense of appropriation which does. Renounce that, rather than possessions.

Does ambition bind ? It can bind as well as release. It binds a child soul. It grips him and drives him into neck-break activity. But, that bondage is necessary for his growth. Ambition for the worldly gains and for egoistic aggrandisement comes in the way of one who



would tread the path of conscious-self endeavour for accelerating the pace of his evolution. He has to turn the energy of ambition into spiritual aspiration. At first it will have an egoistic tinge. It will be so much like a personal ambition turned into the spiritual field. But, as he grows, as the lower mind is cleansed, as the ego dwindles, it will be replaced by pure selfless aspiration.

So, ambition has to be transformed. Aspiration must awaken. The more it awakens and gets intensified, worldly ambitions lose hold.

Handle ambition patiently. Let the sun of spiritual aspiration rise. Like stars will ambition pale into oblivion. You need not fight it. You need not kill it.

Be not lured by renunciation as an ideal. Highest renunciation comes spontaneously as the leaves of the palm tree fall off, as it grows. As you grow, attachments and desires will quit of their own accord. You will be a man of renunciation without any outward renunciation. The Karma of renouncing also binds. Forced renunciation dries and kills man.

True renunciation is effortless. It comes. It is not effected.

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## WORK

Work is the way of our Master, the Divine Master of Evolution. He himself works indefatigably day and night for the sake of our evolution. Work is the way of evolution. He works and others work. Thus, this school of evolution is humming with activity. It will be a death-like stillness without His doing work. Growth will be impossible. This creation and this world of existence will all sink into a stirless oblivion without it.

Man has the privilege of choosing his work, to a great extent. But, work he must, if he has to grow. The intenser his activity, the richer the experience and the quicker the growth. The faster falls your foot, the quicker you will move. It is so plain !

Inertia tempts man to renounce work. But, no work means stagnation. It means no growth. Later on, it comes to mean spiritual death. That way you would lose all that is human in you. You will kill yourself and



the society in which you live by eschewing work (i. e. duty). Beware, it is not saintliness, it is sloth which tempts you to keep your hands empty.

It is wrong to consider work a bondage. Work is joy ! It is growth. It is not work which binds. It is the desire for gains which binds. It is not work which kills, it is worry. It is not work which causes grief, it is attachment to it. So, why do you fear work ? Rise above desire and attachment. Rise above hope for reward.

What a dilemma ? Desire comes with work. Hope follows work like a shadow. How can we renounce these ? Working, we cannot get rid of them, and work we must ! Work is the way to rise above them. Without doing work you cannot do so. Recognize them as they spring up. Understand well that they cause grief. Know that they have to go, for you want them to go. Work for duty. Work for the good of society. Your work has a special value. Keep that in view. It will replace desire and hope gradually. But, you must keep on working steadily. Work builds character. Thoughts and sentiments are little effective till translated into action. Till then, they are airy things which do not tell.

Work awakens the will. It exercises the intellect. It

thus brings our emotional being into activity. Idleness demoralises. Those who associate idleness with spirituality are mistaken. A great spiritual edifice demands great labour. It demands intense and outer activity.

Retirement from active life is not necessary for conscious self-endeavour for the advancement of one's evolution. Life is the field of our sadhana. Renunciation of active life means renunciation of sadhana. Life itself is a continuous sadhana, but only when properly accepted. Living is an art. If we live rightly, we grow rapidly. Spirituality basically means the proper understanding and acceptance of life. It means proper living of it. It teaches us the art of living

Work is worship. It is worship all the more if you do it for the sake of the Master of Evolution. He will accept the offering of your labour of love. Working for Him, you will be rid of desire and hope. Working for Him, you will grow in balance. Working for Him, you will be blessed with Love Divine. Work for Him, and you will be accepted fully by Him. You will become His and He will live in you as you live in Him. Work for Him and you will attain to God-consciousness.

Work is the path of Evolution indeed !



## THE MASTER OF EVOLUTION

It is the Divine Lord who is the Master of Evolution. From Him springs this universe, in Him does it live and at long last into Him does it recede.

It is His Will which constitutes the plan of Evolution. This is the path set for all beings, the path they must traverse and reach Him back filled and whole. He is the Master of the school of evolution. He Himself has laid the foundations and brick by brick has He raised the building. Out of Himself He raised a host of workers and bestowed His skill and power on them. They have all set to work. They are one with Him. It seems as though the Master is at work through them all. Gradually this mighty edifice rises. Young evolving souls are admitted. From session to session they are worked upon and from class to class they rise. The old ones qualify. The new ones are admitted. The school goes on for ever, though students change as also the teachers. The

Master of Evolution has His hands full always.

The Master of Evolution is the Lord of sacrifice. He works from no ulterior motive. What motive could He have ? He is perfect and whole. He lacks nought. What He could aspire for ? He is the Lord of sacrifice and for love He toils. Love is His labour. What sacrifice could be greater than Love ? Out of the fullness His love for us all, His own begotten children, He toils. He toils without a pause. His power is infinite. It is never too much for Him. He is never tired. This school of evolution is a living emblem of His Love supreme.

His consciousness is infinite. He is omniscient. The past, present and future lie before him clear as crystal. He knows the course of our evolution. He knows our evolutionary needs. The entire course of our lives lies upon before His infinite vision. He dispenses our karma in accordance with them.

He never fails. His ways are ingenious. Biological evolution gives us a mere inkling of it. The evolutionary principles give us an insight into an aspect of His great skill. To the goal He is taking us all, and taking us wisely and carefully.

He dispenses pains and pleasures. He dispenses them in accordance with our karma, no doubt. But, the dispensation must also accord to the plan of evolution.



When pain comes, we revolt. 'How unkind of the Lord to make us suffer'. 'It is a cruel Lord which dispenses', we feel. But to think that way is unkind.

He is not like a foolish mother who spoils the child by her misplaced love. When the child weeps for eatables on a full stomach, only a foolish mother would take mercy and yield. That spoils his stomach. It causes suffering. The new born babe is made to weep by kind nurse. That exercises its lungs. Do you know that? Pleasure and pain are no criterion of mercy or cruelty. A good master would make the boy work hard and take him to task when necessary. It's our shortness of vision that makes pleasure the test of his love and kindness.

He is not a tyrant. He is not like Roman kings who rejoiced at man-slaughter in amphi-theatres. That was beastly. He is not like that. Far from it. We know that He is compassion all compact. He is merciful and good. He is kind and loving. My heart is filled at the thought of His bountiful grace. I would fain call Him the Divine Mother, rather than the Master of Evolution. That word, master, has a bad smell about it. Our master is too motherly for that.\*

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\* There is no question of sex in the Divine Lord. Sex ceases as soon as we are above the emotional plane.

Far better than a worldly mother, does the Divine Mother take care of us. It is all Her dispensation. The circumstances through which we pass have Her sanction. Only that which is for our good can happen to us. Even pain and suffering come to us by Her sanction. They come only when they are necessary for our evolution. We should, therefore, welcome all that comes, because it comes from the Divine Mother. It cannot but be for our good.

'It is so hard to do that', you may exclaim. Yes, it is hard, no doubt. But, if you clearly understand it, you may be able to accept it gradually. 'One falters when the stroke comes !' That I know, but you will cease to falter as you grow. By Her grace you can become a pillar of peace.

The Divine Mother is gracious indeed. Her grace consists in taking us all ahead in the evolutionary path, administering assiduously to our needs, always supporting us, loving us, and lifting us. She always holds us in Her consciousness as a mother holds her child in Her lap. It is the flow of Her consciousness which is giving a perpetual push to all creatures. In spite of ourselves we are moving ahead, and we are not allowed to tarry anywhere for long.

With a million eyes she watches, and with as many hands does she come forward to fulfil. Never wanting, never failing. She is always pouring herself into us. To



know Her is to love Her. To have a glimpse of her is to be prepared to surrender one's all at Her feet. To understand Her is to aspire to become Her's and only Her's for ever. It is a joy to live and work for Her. To live for Her is to live for evolution, to live for the evolution of one and all. This is the way to seek a living and full union with the Divine Mother.

Her love is unutterable, Her grace unspeakable. It is a privilege to bow down at Her feet. When you recognize Her, She will be present to receive your obeisance wherever you bow. She will receive your offering of loveful labour whenever and in whatever way you make it. She is the Lord of works.

Her might is immeasurable. She is the Lord of Lords. She holds one and all in Her power. She supports countless universes. She is the power behind an atom and a cosmos alike.

The Divine Lord is the Master of Evolution. He is the Divine Mother. You must recognize Her at the very core of your being. Recognize Her hand behind every body and every event. Love Her and live for Her. Therein lies the fulfilment of life.

Aspire for the fulfilment of Her will. Therein lies the greatest good. That is the way to Divinity. Do not try to have your own way against Her will. That is behaving like a silly obstinate child.



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**THE END.**









# स्वामी रामानन्द जी महाराज का प्रकाशित साहित्य

## हिन्दी साहित्य

नाम पुस्तक	मूल्य
१ आध्यात्मिक विकास	२.०० रु०
२ आध्यात्मिक साधन (प्रथम खण्ड)	२.०० रु०
३ आध्यात्मिक साधन (द्वितीय खण्ड)	२.०० रु०
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११ दम्पति के लिये (उपहार योग्य)	०.०५ पैसे
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## अंग्रेजी साहित्य

१ As I Understand (Revised and enlarged edition)	०.२० पैसे
२ Evolutionary Outlook on Life	०.७५ पैसे
३ Evolutionary Spiritualism	१.५० रु०
४ Sex and Spirituality (जीवन रहस्य का अंग्रेजी अनुवाद)	१.२५ रु०
„ „ (Delux edition)	२.५० रु०

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